

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9, and 11 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 11 was objected to as containing an informality; Claims 1-10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding a question of antecedent basis in Claim 1; and Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,341,287 to Sziklai (hereinafter “the ‘287 patent”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 11 is rendered moot. Claim 11 has been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, the objection to Claim 11 is believed to have been overcome.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 1-10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to address the antecedent basis question noted in the outstanding Office Action.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an integrating document management system for managing access to documents distributed over a computer network, comprising: (1) a plurality of connecting parts configured to interface between a user interface part and a corresponding plurality of data processing parts, the connecting parts configured to implement common document management operations upon a plurality of different databases. Further, Claim 1 clarifies that each connecting part includes (1) an interface that corresponds to a respective one of the plurality of databases, (2) a common interface that

corresponds to the user interface part, and (3) a translating part configured to transform instructions and/or data received from the user interface part into instructions and/or data that are compatible with the corresponding data processing part, and configured to transform instructions and/or data received from the corresponding data processing part into instructions and/or data that are compatible with the user interface part. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) as anticipated by the '287 patent is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

The '287 patent is directed to an integrated system for managing changes in regulatory and non-regulatory requirements for business activities at an industrial or a commercial facility. In particular, the '287 patent discloses a system that includes one or more databases that contain information on operations and requirements concerning an activity or area of business, and that the system receives information on regulatory and non-regulatory changes that affect operations of the business, and converts these changes into changes in data entry forms, data processing analysis procedures, and presentation of data processing results, without requiring the services of one or more programmers. In particular, as recited in Claim 1 of the '287 patent, the '287 patent discloses a plurality of databases including a first database that provides product stewardship, a second database that allows tracking and prevention of selected incidents, a third database that provides information on monitoring of personnel health and safety, and a fourth database that provides information on and monitoring of hazardous materials, etc. Further, the '287 patent discloses that the system includes a tools module that provides software for at least one of creation of a report on

¹ See, e.g., element 12 in Figure 5 as well as steps S3 and S5 in Figure 9 and steps S15 and S17 in Figure 10, and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

operations of the facility or creation of at least one image for a report on operations, and a relational database module that links each database to each other database and to the tools module so that an information item, once entered, becomes available to each database and to the tools module.² Further, as shown in Figure 1, the '287 patent discloses four layers that comprise the primary components of the invention, including the changed layer 11, the Java data management layer 13, the metadata layer 15, and the business content layer 17.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '287 patent fails to disclose a plurality of connecting parts, wherein each connecting part includes a translating part configured to transform instructions and/or data received from the user interface part into instructions and/or data that are compatible with the corresponding data processing part, and configured to transform instructions and/or data received from the corresponding data processing part into instructions and/or data that are compatible with the user interface part, as recited in amended Claim 1. Rather, the '287 patent merely discloses a plurality of databases and a user management unit that manages changes to the data contained in the plurality of databases. Further, the '287 patent discloses that a server helps a user to build one or more queries that present a request to the databases in a form the databases can respond to so as to provide all the information the user has requested. However, Applicants respectfully submit that this is not a disclosure of the plurality of connecting parts that include the translating part recited in Claim 1. Rather, the '287 patent merely discloses a server, but does not teach or suggest the translating part recited in amended Claim 1. Further, Applicants note that column 11, lines 56-67 of the '287 patent discloses use of a standard interface along with metadata that describes the various system components using a business-like terminology. The section of the '287 patent discloses that the main components of the interface portion of the invention are a web server, a database server, and a Java-enabled

² See columns 32-34 of the '287 patent.

browser. However, Applicants respectfully submit that this is not a disclosure or translating part configured to transform instructions and/or data received from a user interface part into instructions and/or data that are compatible with the corresponding data processing part, as required by Claim 1.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) as anticipated by the '287 patent is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

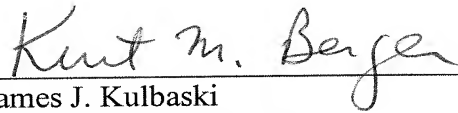
Independent Claim 9 recites a translating part and Claim 11 recites a means for translating. These limitations are not disclosed by the '257 patent. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 9 and 11 (and all associated dependent claims) are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 9, and 11 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '287 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Registration No. 34,648
Attorney of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

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